

MUSIC.

NEW-YORK PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

The second public rehearsal and concert of the Philharmonic Society in this city, which took place at the Academy of Music on Friday afternoon and last evening, showed no falling off from the brilliancy of the first performances, either in the size of the audience, the beauty of the programme, or in the admirable work of the orchestra, and gave every indication that the fair promise with which the season opened will be fulfilled. The concerts had especial interest because of the appearance of the male part of the chorus which Mr. Thomas is training to cooperate with the Philharmonic Society, and which was heard for the first time in his Liszt's "Faust Symphony." The following was the programme:

Concerto, op. 62, Beethoven; Symphony, No. 8, Beethoven (finished); Schubert; "Siegfried" (in scene, Act I); "The Walk of the Woods"; "Wanderer," Max Leopold, Liszt.

This was one of those admirable programmes in the composition of which Thomas shows such rare art. Unlike that of the last concert, in which the first part was the best, this one possessed an increasing interest from the beginning to the end, and each selection led up to and enhanced the beauty of that which succeeded it. No one of the pieces was new save that from "Siegfried," but they were put together with such judicious discrimination, the balance was so perfectly preserved, the performance was marked by such spirit, vigor and refinement, that the whole possessed all the attractiveness and interest of novelty. It is one of the strongest proofs of Thomas's greatness as a conductor that with each new rendering of familiar works by his hand, one finds in them hitherto unexpected beauties, and this can only come from his deep and thorough insight into the spirit of the composition, a fine and comprehensive grasp of its meaning, and absolute command of technical methods of expression. The solo "Concerto" was delightfully played, and the two movements of the unfinished Schubert Symphony, so rich in melodic grace and so full of earnest poetic feeling, were given with a freshness and delicacy, and with a breadth and sincerity which reflected afresh all the familiar charms, and reinvigorated every step new beauties.

The selection which Mr. Thomas made from "Siegfried" is that portion of the opera in which the young hero welds anew his master sword "Nietzche." "Siegfried" has been heard from "Mime," the dwarf, son of the history of the broken sword, which can never be mended but by one who never knew fear, and taking the sword himself, welds it together on an anvil, accompanying his work by a song of joy and triumph, while "Mime" crochets near by and watches him. He determines that with the magic sword forged shall kill "Fafner" the giant who guards the hoard of the Nibelungs, and that once the treasure is secured, he in turn will put "Siegfried" to sleep with a poisoned draught, kill him, and take possession of the gold; and he details his plan in a song which fills up the intervals of "Siegfried." The music, which depicts the forging of the sword, "Siegfried" hammering at his anvil, and the hissing of the water in which the heated steel is tempered, is strong and intensely dramatic, and though like all the music of the tetralogy, it loses much in being separated from its surroundings in the drama, it is glowing, vigorous and effective, and reflects admirably the rough, treacherous character of the young hero and the treacherous cunning of the dwarf. Mr. Towner, who sang the part of "Siegfried," acquitted himself excellently of a most difficult task. The part is very trying, and he was sometimes overwhelmed by the orchestra, but he sang in a broad, frank fashion, never sparing himself, and doing his work in an intelligent and satisfactory manner. Mr. Treumann, the "Mime," is a young baritone who has not been heard here hitherto, but he produced an excellent impression, for his voice is a fine one, and so far as could be told, a good method. The climax of the concert came with the Leysi Symphony. It was one of those performances that one never hears but from this orchestra and from this conductor—and from them ever rarely—when every one, from Thomas to the cymbal-player, is not only in the happiest mood, but seems penetrated by a fervid and single-hearted love of his art, and gifted with almost unnatural powers of expression. As in his Symphonic Poems, Liszt has taken a poetic idea and attempted to paint it in music. It is not strictly "programme-music," but it is impossible to understand it without a knowledge of Goethe's poem. The work is divided into three movements, "Faust," "Gretchen" and "Mephistopheles," and Liszt has attempted to give a sort of musical characterization of the three leading personages of the poem. In this symphony poetic expression in music is carried to its utmost limit. It is not easily understood, but when it is the three characters all seem to be painted in strong, glowing colors, and though the work is overmuch elaborated, the interest cannot flag. It is full of fire and passion, and runs through the whole gamut of human passion, and bristles with technical difficulties which are beyond the mastery of most bands. But long night there seemed to be no difficulties. The playing of the orchestra was splendidly firm, and the execution of the difficult parts was now勦悉, obscure as it was, was brought out by Thomas with marvelous clearness, and with such a broad, glowing and sympathetic interpretation, the symphony was overwhelmingly impressive. The work of the chorus was excellent. The singing was full and ringing, the choral effect, shading well into the body of the voices, was all that could be desired. It was so little to do in this work that there was no chance for display, but the singing was sound, careful and sufficiently finished, and it gave fine promise of future excellence.

LADIES' ART ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF PICTURES, EMBROIDERIES, ETC.

The members of the Ladies' Art Association invited their friends last evening to a private view of the rooms, Nos. 4 and 6 West Fourteenth-st., which they have arranged for their annual exhibition of pictures, drawings, embroideries and objects of artistic interest and value. The rooms present a very cheerful appearance, and it is to be hoped that the public will reward its attendance and by its purchases, the effort which the ladies of the association are making to carry out the practical semi-annual objects proposed by the society.

What these objects are may be briefly stated. It is intended, as soon as the funds of the society will admit of it, to put up a building containing apartments and studios to be rented at reasonable rates to artists and art-students. Connected with this building there is needed a permanent custodian, who shall take charge of whatever work is produced by the members and put on sale or on exhibition, and who shall receive orders for work to be done by the members. The society also hopes to be able to offer to persons who show any talent, but whose means are not sufficient for their support, that they are engaged in study or in preparation for work, an opportunity to get what they need, by accepting their labor notes, that is, their promise to pay for what they have received, either by giving a specified number of hours to teaching in the classes of the society, when they are themselves sufficiently advanced, or by art-work which can be sold by the society for its own reimbursement.

It should be borne in mind that these views were expressed by the poet more than twenty years ago for the territory that now constitutes California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New-Mexico and Texas was acquired by the United States, and half a century before Lord Beaconsfield decided to purchase Suez Canal shares. Very respectfully yours,

JOHNSON T. PLATT.
New-York, Dec. 7, 1880.

A Hebrew fair was opened last night at the Metropolitan Concert Hall. Under the name of the "Tunomah," a collection of 250 beautiful and useful articles was on exhibition, to be raffled for at 50 cents a ticket. Among the other articles were a upright piano, a black o. x. p. with pendant locks set with thirteen diamonds, valued at \$150; diamond rings, and watches, fur-lined circular boxes and boxes of wines and liquors. Among these present were Messrs. Uriah Herkin, E. M. Angel, B. Seigman, Mrs. Isaac Herkin, Mrs. Samuel Levy, Mrs. Isaac Phillips, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. A. Rothschild and Miss Seigman. The hall was

lavishly decorated with hunting. More than a thousand persons were in attendance.

RAILWAY INTERESTS.

THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

OTTAWA, Ont., Dec. 11.—The arrangement made with the Canadian Pacific Railway Syndicate was presented last night to the House of Commons, and will come up for debate next week. The contract to build the road is made with George Stephen and Daniel McIver, of Montreal; J. S. Kennedy, New-York; R. B. Angus and J. J. Hill, St. Paul, Minn.; Morris Rose & Co., London; Eng.; and K. K. Bennett & Co., Paris, France; who will be known as the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. The capital stock is to be \$25,000,000. The directors are to be George Stephen, Duncan McIntyre, J. S. Kennedy, B. A. Angus, J. J. Hill, Shadwell Northcott, P. F. Gribell, and others. The three latter of London, Eng., are with Misses B. A. and M. B. B. Rothchild.

This is what this association of ladies intend to do in offering to young women of talent, and they show them faith by their kindly and unsworn words.

In the present exhibition a room is appropriated to a collection of oil paintings, some of them executed by the members of the society, and others lent by friendly artists. Mrs. Edward Moran has the arrangement of this room, and it will be found to contain much good material. Mrs. Frederic W. Dowie has loaned a number of articles of Hindoo manufacture; those are placed in a room by themselves, and are interesting to the visitor. There is also a collection of pieces of Chinese cloisonné copper—plates, an incense burner, a cup, and a small box with cover—which are well worth a visit to the exhibition for their sake alone. Of course, the exhibition is not limited to art, we consider the design of the execution and observation a picture in a museum. But the other pieces are such as are in common use, with oil lamps, etc. The Misses H. L. Ward and Miss Susan Hayes Ward have arranged a collection of embroideries and objects of household ornament. Among the embroideries we observe a very pretty piece designed and executed by Miss Fanny E. Fryatt, who has charge of the school. Miss Fanny E. Fryatt has charge of an attractive case of American pottery, chiefly the product of the Cheesa factories, near Boston, but with some clever printed designs, and some of the old pieces of pottery made by Mr. Volkner. There are also two interesting heads of children, life-size, in a seemingly self-sustained elation, which will be seen in the hitherto unexpected beauties, and this can only come from his deep and thorough insight into the spirit of the composition, a fine and comprehensive grasp of its meaning, and absolute command of technical methods of expression. The people "Carols" overture was delightfully played, and the two movements of the unfinished Schubert Symphony, so rich in melodic grace and so full of earnest poetic feeling, were given with a freshness and delicacy, and with a breadth and sincerity which reflected afresh all the familiar charms, and reinvigorated every step new beauties.

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REDUCING EXPENSES.

ALBANY, Dec. 10.—The foremen of the machine shop of the Boston and Albany Railroad in this city, Boston and Springfield, have been instructed to reduce the price of all materials used in the shops at Hudson will be at one-third for the winter.

NEW RAILROAD INCORPORATED.

ALBANY, Dec. 11.—The Schenectady, Bradford and Albany River Railroad was incorporated today. The length of the rail will be between five miles and half, \$850,000. The line will connect Schenectady, Catskill, Schoharie County, with a point on the N.Y. & W. and Pennsylvania State Line. During the month of November there were 57,000 loaded cars sent East through this city and 54,000 cars sent West, making a grand total of 111,000 cars for the month.

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y.—
PROGRESSIVE HOTEL, 1880.

DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 1st inst. respecting my name of the 4th, has been received, and has been submitted by me to my colleagues on the committee to whom you addressed your letter, to whom I request you to allow me to make at least one additional member of your committee, who may be equally qualified to represent the interests of our countrymen in this country before we meet. I trust you will be pleased to accept my name before I leave you to attend to your business.

To this I am instructed in regard that this request is not one proper to be referred to us or considered by us, since we have had nothing to do with the appointment of the stockholders December 28 to 29, and the proposition to consolidate the Chenango and Susquehanna with two of their own number, a majority of the stockholders are to be appointed by the board on their behalf for the purpose of ascertaining whether any alterations had been made in the corporation.

As the purpose of the approaching half year would have been entirely to have confined myself to a study of the objects to be done and improvidently dealt with, the majority of the stockholders would have been unable to do so.

But, having consented to serve, we consider among ourselves unanimously that the most appropriate mode of proceeding would be to begin by holding a meeting of the stockholders in this country before we meet, and hope that improved alteration will be made.

I do not wish to trouble the committee you are to consider, but I trust you will be pleased to accept my name before I leave you to attend to your business.

F. A. BARNARD, Chairman of Committee.

Mr. Barnard's letter in response claimed that his charge pertained to matters which concerned the public as well as the trustees, and that a committee, which owned his origin solely to one of the parties to the controversy, was not likely to satisfy the public demand for a full, free and impartial investigation. The committee, however, were satisfied by the reasonableness of his suggestion, and took his advice.

For the Middle Atlantic States, lower barometer, winter southern winds, clear or partly cloudy weather.

For the Northern States, lower barometer, winter southern winds, clear or partly cloudy weather.

For New England, lower barometer, winter temperature, winds singularly to westerly, clear or partly cloudy weather.

For the Middle Atlantic States, lower barometer, winter southern winds, clear or partly cloudy weather.

For the Southern States, lower barometer, winter southern winds, clear or partly cloudy weather.

At the meeting of the committee yesterday, President Barnard in the chair, Dr. Peabody, while impeaching the method employed in regarding the subjects in the report, was of the opinion that the report of the committee, which was not likely to satisfy the public demand for a full, free and impartial investigation, was not the best way to proceed.

The investigation at the Museum on Saturday next, A. 11 o'clock, a.m., we have already informed you. I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

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